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MISSOURI TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE WORKS TO ADDRESS MISSOURI'S DIRE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

The Missouri Transportation Alliance (MoTA) is a group of small business owners, first responders, cities, counties, local chambers of commerce and concerned citizens who share a common goal – to find a way to meet Missouri's urgent transportation needs. The number of cars and trucks on Missouri roads has doubled in the past 30 years. We must act now or face detours, delays and decaying roads and bridges.

"Missouri can't keep families safe and expand the economy over the next decade without smart investment in our transportation infrastructure," said Bill McKenna, MoTA spokesperson, former Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has reliably delivered projects on time and on budget with the limited resources at its disposal. While this has been a benefit to Missourians, the time has come to address the needs that have been compounding over the past 20 years. Truck and vehicle traffic has doubled, yet resources have stayed the same.

Additional funding is necessary for road and bridge maintenance to prevent accidents and save lives. McKenna outlined the steps necessary to create safer roads and bridges, "...wider shoulders, more guard rails, expanded use of rumble strips, better signing and striping, and most importantly finding a way to deal with Missouri's growing number of obsolete or deficient bridges that are nearing failure. In order to save lives, protect our families and meet our responsibilities to the public, we need to see that MoDOT has adequate funding."

McKenna noted that past improvements have led to significant reductions in fatalities, but MoDOT has stressed that continued safety improvements are largely dependent on making smart investments in safety measures and transportation improvements.

In addition to improving the safety of our roads and bridges, transportation infrastructure investment will provide three important economic benefits to Missouri's ailing economy:

- First, it will provide immediate economic activity in every region of the state as jobs are created to complete critical transportation projects and repair roads and bridges in disrepair.
- Second, it will provide the long-term infrastructure necessary for small businesses and communities to grow and create good-paying jobs and great places to live.

- Third, it will make Missouri much more competitive in the global competition to attract new businesses looking for new locations to expand.

Missouri small businesses are dependent upon a good transportation system to provide the crucial infrastructure to meet the demands of their customers, to survive and grow in a globally competitive marketplace. The current funding shortfall for MoDOT has stalled plans in nearly every community and region of the state that are vital to the economic future and well being of small businesses and residents.

“If Missouri wants to rebound from the recession, we need to double-down—invest in our infrastructure—that’s the path to greater prosperity, job growth and economic vitality,” said McKenna.

MoTA will be working with first responders, small businesses, transportation and community leaders, businesses and citizens to develop a funding solution over the next several months. To learn more about becoming an active supporter of the Alliance or to provide your input on how Missouri’s transportation system can meet the safety and economic needs of Missouri, visit www.missouritransportation.org.

How to get involved:

- Connect with the Missouri Transportation Alliance via
 - facebook @Missouri Transportation Alliance
 - twitter@motalliance
 - flickr @motalliance
- Add a link to MoTA’s web site to your web site or blog www.missouritransportation.org
- Become a Stakeholder and encourage your business or organization to pass a resolution in support of MoTA
- E-mail MoTA for more information – info@missouritransportation.org

About the Missouri Transportation Alliance

The Missouri Transportation Alliance (MoTA) is a nonpartisan, citizen-led group of transportation stakeholders, business and labor organizations, and community leaders who believe Missouri’s transportation infrastructure is critical to citizen safety and job creation. MoTA conducted more than 200 public meetings over 18 months in all ten MoDOT districts, to both inform the public about Missouri’s current transportation situation and seek input on the regional priorities that should be considered in developing a new vision. MoTA has defined the need and is now developing a funding solution for a comprehensive transportation plan.



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